

# National Electrical Safety Code Committee, Accredited Standards Committee C2

## National Electrical Safety Code®

### Interpretation

#### Section 23. Clearances

#### **Table 234-3 Clearance of Wires, Conductors, Cables, or Unguarded Rigid Live Parts Over or Near Swimming Pools (11 July 2000) IR 521**

I am an electrical distribution engineer for Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. I am looking for an interpretation of Table 234-3 of the 1997 edition of the NESC. This table provides clearances of wires near swimming pools. My question is if spas, (commonly known as whirlpools, hot-tubs, or jacuzzis) are considered pools. And if they are considered pools, if they fall under the same classification for clearances as pools do in table 234-3.

#### **Interpretation**

The NESC Interpretations Subcommittee has considered the subject Interpretation Request and has developed a consensus report as follows:

“For NESC clearance purposes, spas (including whirlpools, hot-tubs, jacuzzis, or other similar installations not suitable for swimming) are not considered as swimming pools covered by rule 234E, Table 234-3. Note that this rule and table refers to swimming areas and swimming pools. Table 234-3 clearances allow for use of skimmer and rescue poles.

Spas, etc., not suitable for swimming, are usually installed as part of a building or as a similar installation. Clearances for such installations are found in Table 234-1. Vertical clearance should be from the highest point of the installation upon which people can stand. See Item 1 for installations that are part of buildings, such as a raised spa on an open deck. See Item 2 for free-standing installations.

This interpretation does not cover portable wading pools. See Table 232-1, Item 5.”